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## REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

During the past year the Academy received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania an appropriation of \$75,000 for the purpose of completing the alterations and additions to the building outlined in the plans prepared several years ago, and intended to safeguard the institution against fire and to render more complete the library, museum, and teaching plant.

The alterations now under way comprise a brick casing to the south wall of the old green stone building, the addition of two stories to the connecting building on Nineteenth Street, containing the local museum, and the addition of granite and terra-cotta trimmings to make it uniform with the other buildings; the complete remodeling of the old library hall for museum purposes, the walling off of the herbarium rooms, recoating of the roof of the main museum and the addition of new skylights; also the fireproofing of exposed iron work, the substitution of concrete for wooden floors, improvement of the old cellar, and the extension of the electric lighting and plumbing systems. Metal cases are also to be provided in the hall formerly used for the library.

The work was begun in October, and is to be finished in time for the Academy's Centennial Celebration, in March. The preparations for the alterations involved the closing of the entire museum except the Archæological and Mineralogical and the Mammal floors and the removal of most of the exhibits, as well as the entire Entomological Department to temporary quarters. It has therefore been impossible to institute any improvements in the arrangement of the exhibition collections, although certain important additions have been made to them.

A large amount of research and routine work has, however, been accomplished by the members of the scientific staff, as outlined in the accompanying special reports. In addition, Dr. J. Percy Moore has continued his studies on the deep-sea Annelids dredged in the North Pacific by expeditions of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Leland Stanford Junior University, and the University of California, and on collections made by several persons along the coast of California. Descriptions of new forms have been published in the PROCEEDINGS and cotypes and duplicates reserved for the Academy's collection. The collections of worms have been cared for as usual and assistance has been rendered to various individuals and institutions in the identification of specimens and in giving information.

Mr. H. W. Fowler has continued the care of the collection of fishes and has critically studied the Apodal and Salmonoid groups and prepared a number of papers for the PROCEEDINGS. Miss H. N. Wardle has looked after the Archeological collections as heretofore.

In addition, the Curators are indebted to Mr. Morgan Hebard for having a large number of the Orthoptera obtained on recent expeditions mounted; and to Messrs. S. S. Van Pelt and Bayard Long for valuable aid in the care of the local collection of plants.

Numerous local field trips have been taken during the year by members of the staff and considerable additions made thereby to the collections of fishes, insects and plants. Mr. Rehn, accompanied by Mr. Morgan Hebard, also visited Georgia and Florida, and Mr. Stone the mountains of western Maryland.

Early in the year, through the liberality of Mr. Francis E. Bond, an expedition was undertaken to the Orinoco delta and other parts of northern Venezuela, in the interests of the Academy. Mr. Bond was accompanied by Mr. Stewardson Brown and Mr. Thomas S. Gillen, and valuable collections, especially of birds, insects, and plants, were obtained. Several groups of the birds and mammals have been mounted and placed on exhibition and reports are being prepared on the various collections.

Mr. Clarence B. Moore has continued his investigation of the Indian mounds of the Southern States and has added many valuable specimens to his collection, for the accommodation of which he has presented another mahogany and plate-glass case. The Academy also supported in part an expedition made by Mr. H. W. Wenzel, Jr., to the mountains of southern Texas, from which it received a valuable series of insects and a few reptiles.

Noteworthy among the accessions of the year is a skeleton of an adult male sperm whale, which came ashore at Ocean City, N. J., and was secured for the Academy through the prompt and intelligent action of Mr. William B. Davis and the generosity of the Ocean City Life-Saving Crew.

An important collection of East Indian birds was obtained by purchase and also a fine bull Buffalo, the latter from the Zoological Society of Philadelphia.

Seventy-three storage cases, 250 insect boxes and six plate-glass and mahogany exhibition cases were purchased during the year.

There has been a marked increase in the attendance of visitors to the Museum, especially of classes of school children accompanied by their teachers.

Specimens have been loaned to Samuel G. Dixon, Henry A. Pilsbry, Witmer Stone, Henry Tucker, C. S. Sargent, Thomas Barbour, E. W. Nelson, Robt. Ridgway, Geo. H. Girty, Edgar A. Mearns, R. W. Shufeldt, Julia A. Gardner, Mary J. Rathbun, and H. C. Oberholser.

SAMUEL G. DIXON,  
HENRY A. PILSBRY,  
WITMER STONE,  
HENRY TUCKER.

#### REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOLLUSCA.

Work on the collection of mollusks has been confined to the study-series during this year, as it has seemed inexpedient to begin projected changes in the public exhibition until the alteration of the building is completed. Fifteen new storage cases gave opportunity for the arrangement of the current additions to the collection, with the exception of the Unionidæ, which remain unprotected for the time being. The dust-proof storage cases now installed number 156, each holding 16 trays of 3.38 square feet area. The total space now occupied by the dry collection of mollusks is as follows:

Double table-cases, glazed tops.....	43,	with an area of 2,057 sq. ft.
Drawers below same.....	624,	" " " 2,121 " "
Storage cases.....	156,	" " " 7,914 " "
Total area.....		12,092 sq. ft.

From South America we have received valuable lots from Venezuela, collected by Mr. S. Brown, of the F. E. Bond Expedition; from Ecuador, collected by Mr. S. N. Rhoads, and from Jamaica, collected by Dr. Amos P. Brown. Dr. C. M. Cooke, of Honolulu, and D. D. Baldwin, of Maui, have contributed needed material from the Hawaiian Islands, and Mr. A. Haycock gave paratypes of the new species discovered by him in Bermuda. Our North American collection has been increased by gifts from Messrs. J. A. Allen, J. H. Ferriss, L. E. Daniels, C. B. Moore, G. H. Clapp and many others.

In the MANUAL OF CONCHOLOGY a monograph of the sub-family Amastrinæ has been completed, and our very large collection of these snails has been revised and arranged. The American *Sphæriidæ* and the mollusks of Bermuda in our collection have been worked over by Mr. Vanatta.

The assistance rendered by Dr. Amos P. Brown, who has co-operated with the Curator in working up collections made by him in Jamaica, is gratefully acknowledged.

In the absence of a palæontologist, the Curator has, with the volunteer assistance of Dr. A. P. Brown, taken up much-needed work on the palæontological collection, which, on account of the large number of type specimens, is one of the most important in America. Various brief publications on Miocene and Cretaceous Mollusca have grown out of the work done on the collections. Dr. Brown has collaborated in studies on the Oligocene fauna of the Isthmus of Panama. The results have been published in the PROCEEDINGS, and the material, comprising numerous types, placed in the Museum.

H. A. PILSBRY,  
*Special Curator Department of Mollusca.*

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#### REPORT OF CURATOR OF WILLIAM S. VAUX COLLECTION.

During the past year there has been added to the William S. Vaux Collections eleven specimens of minerals, which, while few in number, are of exceptional value and interest. Among those deserving special mention are meteorites from York County, Pa., a large twin titanite from Canada, and two native silvers from Lake Superior.

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. KEELEY,  
*Curator Wm. S. Vaux Collection.*

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#### REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS.

##### BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

Nine stated and several informal meetings of the Section have been held during the year, with the usual attendance. Two new members have been added and one resignation has occurred.

The work of the year has consisted of miscellaneous communications, the most important of which, *Micro-Spectroscopic Observations*, by Mr. F. J. Keeley, was presented at the meeting with the Academy and is published in the PROCEEDINGS.

The Conservator reports an addition to the Museum of three hundred and ten slides of microscopic objects, the gift of Dr. J. Cheston Morris.